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A GENERAL INDEX

TO THE CONTENTS OF

FOURTEEN POPULAR TREATISES

ON

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY,

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PREFACE.

Books of reference of all kinds are specially needful in this country to supplement the teachings of the common school, the workshop and the printing house. In a community where the average intelligence is exceptionally high, — where almost everyone has a more or less distinct "general idea" of a great variety of subjects, though few persons are really learned in any one department of knowledge, — Encyclopædias and Dictionaries of the Arts and Sciences find many readers.

It has occurred to the author that a new and useful kind of reference book may be made by collating the Tables of Contents and Indices of a considerable number of standard treatises on any given subject, to form a compendious *General Index*, in which the student may learn at a glance where to find information upon any special point.

A tool or implement of instruction of this sort, — which can be afforded at a price low enough to bring it within the reach of all, — would be specially valuable in these days when school libraries and public libraries, which contain the books referred to, are springing up on every hand.

The idea in question is applicable of course to almost any subject, but to none more so than to that of Natural Philosophy. In seeking to reduce his conception to practice, the author has therefore attempted an Index of Physical Titles, in the belief that the subject at least will commend his effort to American artificers and teachers.

It is to be remarked that the apparent meagreness of many of the references in the following general index is due for the most part to the different methods of treating their subject, which have been followed by the authors of the several books consulted. One set of details is treated of in one book, and another set in another. There is far less of repetition and of similarity among the various works than would naturally be supposed. Herein will be found a strong argument in favor of the idea of which this little book is the exponent.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS INDEX.

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A. SUPPLEMENT to the American Cyclopædia for the years '61 to '69.

B. PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICS AND METEOROLOGY. By J. Muller. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1848.

C. ELEMENTS OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS. By J. P. Cooke, Jr. Boston: Little & Brown, 1860.

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M. SOUND. A course of eight lectures delivered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. By John Tyndall, LL.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1867.

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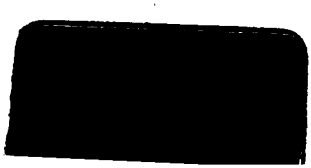
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